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PROPERTY AND SPECIAL TAXES DEPARTMENT
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April 1, 2005

TO INTERESTED PARTIES:

PROPOSED WELFARE EXEMPTION RULES

Letter To Assessors 2004/052, dated September 17, 2004, announced the welfare exemption rules project. The Board initiated this rulemaking project for the purpose of adopting new Property Tax Rules to implement statutory law pertaining to the welfare exemption. Interested parties were invited to submit comments with regard to subject areas or statutory provisions that should be addressed in the new rules.

After analyses of the comments and suggestions received from interested parties, Board staff identified eight key issues that required additional input and discussion with interested parties. The project then progressed as follows:

- On January 14, 2005, an interested parties letter was released providing a listing of the key issues that staff had identified as requiring further input and discussion.
- On February 24, 2005, an interested parties letter was released providing a summary of staff's preliminary opinion on each of the key issues.
- On March 16, 2005, an interested parties meeting was held in Sacramento to discuss the key issues. Staff announced that drafts of the proposed rules would be distributed by the end of March.

Enclosed are drafts of proposed rules:

- Rule 140, Requirements of Managing General Partner of Limited Partnership for Welfare Exemption for Low-Income Housing Properties
- Rule 141, Requirements for Supplemental Clearance Certificate for Limited Partnership for Welfare Exemption For Low-Income Housing Properties
- Rule 142, Welfare Exemption Requirements for Low-Income Housing Properties
- Rule 143, Requirements for Irrevocable Dedication Clause and Dissolution Clause for Welfare Exemption

Interested parties may submit comments, in the form of alternative language, on the drafts of the proposed rules. Alternative language should be submitted by April 20, 2005, to Ms. Ladeena Ford at ladeena.ford@boe.ca.gov. Please identify the draft rule, subdivision and page and line number for any alternative language submitted. Also, please provide supporting comments for the suggested change. These rules can be made available in an electronic Word format upon request.

After reviewing comments received from interested parties, staff will post a matrix on May 4, 2005, listing the comments and staff's position on each comment. The matrix, as well as all documents relating to this welfare exemption rulemaking project, will be posted to the Board's website at www.boe.ca.gov/proptaxes/ptrwelfare.htm.

A second interested parties meeting will be held on May 11, 2005 to discuss the alternative language identified on the matrix. The meeting will be held at the Board's headquarters in Sacramento, 450 N Street, Board Room 121, beginning at 1 p.m.. It is anticipated that the project will then proceed as follows:

- Interested parties will have until May 20 to submit final comments regarding pending issues discussed at the May 11 meeting.
- Staff will prepare required documents for formal presentation to the Board, including significant issues on which interested parties could not reach agreement.
- The proposed rules will be discussed at the June 30, 2005 Board meeting.
- The formal rulemaking process commences once the Board approves regulatory language for publication.

If you have questions regarding this rulemaking project, you may contact Ms. Ladeena Ford at (916) 324-5839. Questions regarding staff's proposed language should be directed to Tax Counsel Sophia Chung at (916) 445-8485.

Sincerely,

/s/ Dean R. Kinnee

Dean R. Kinnee, Chief Assessment Policy and Standards Division

Enclosures

(b) The managing general partner must maintain records and documents evidencing each partnership management duty it performs and the charitable services and benefits provided or information made available to the low-income housing tenants. Such records and documents include, but are not limited to:

- (1) accounting books and records;
- (2) tax returns;
- (3) budgets and financial reports;
- (4) reports required by lenders;
- (5) documents related to the construction or rehabilitation of real property;
- (6) legal documents such as contracts, deeds, notes, leases, and deeds of trust;
- (7) documents related to complying with government regulations and filings;
- (8) documents related to property inspections;
- (9) documents related to charitable services provided;
- (10) reports prepared for the partners; and
- (11) bank account records.

(c) Substitution of Managing General Partner. A limited partnership in which the managing general partner is an eligible nonprofit corporation that has qualified for the welfare exemption for low-income housing may allow a substitution of its managing general partner by another eligible nonprofit corporation without affecting the organizational qualification for the welfare exemption provided that:

(1) the limited partnership agreement authorizes the withdrawal of the existing managing general partner for the substituting managing general partner on the same effective date and the admission of the substituting managing general partner into the limited partnership is in compliance with the requirements of section 15641 of the Corporations Code; and

(2) the substituting managing general partner meets all of the requirements of a managing general partner set forth in subdivision (a)(6) above.

(d) Delegation of Authority Clause. If the limited partnership agreement contains a delegation of authority clause, such clause must provide either that:

(1) the managing general partner may not delegate any of its substantial management duties defined in (a)(10) above; or

(2) the managing general partner may delegate its substantial management duties, defined in (a)(10) above, to persons who, under its supervision, may perform such duties for the partnership subject to the supervision and approval by the managing general partner.

(e) Certification Requirements. The limited partnership must file for and receive a supplemental clearance certificate from the Board as provided in Regulation 141.

(f) The provisions of this regulation shall apply prospectively.

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THE LANGUAGE SET FORTH IN THIS DRAFT OF PROPOSED 1 RULE 141 DOES NOT REFLECT OR REPRESENT THE POSITION 2 OF THE BOARD OR ANY BOARD MEMBER. 3 4 DRAFT OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX RULE 141 5 REQUIREMENTS FOR SUPPLEMENTAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE 6 FOR LIMITED PARTNERSHIP FOR WELFARE EXEMPTION 7 8 FOR LOW-INCOME HOUSING PROPERTIES 9 A limited partnership in which the managing general partner is an eligible nonprofit 10 (a) corporation, as defined in Regulation 140, that owns low-income housing property for 11 which it will claim the welfare exemption shall file with the State Board of Equalization 12 an application for a Supplemental Clearance Certificate for each low-income housing 13 property. The form of the application shall be prescribed by the State Board of 14 Equalization. 15 16 17 (b) A Supplemental Clearance Certificate may be granted only if the managing general partner has already been granted an Organizational Clearance Certificate by the State 18 Board of Equalization, as required under Revenue and Taxation Code section 254.6. 19 20 21 (c) In order to qualify for a Supplemental Clearance Certificate, the general partners of the limited partnership, including the managing general partner, must certify under penalty of 22 perjury under the laws of the State of California, that: 23 24 (1) The acquisition, rehabilitation, development, or operation of the property, or any 25 combination of these factors, is financed with federal low-income housing tax credits 26 or government financing, as defined in Regulation 142; 27 28 (2) There is an enforceable and verifiable regulatory agreement or recorded deed 29 restriction, as defined in Regulation 142, that restricts all or a portion of the 30 property's usage for rental to lower income households and the units designated for 31 use by lower income households are continuously available to or occupied by lower 32 income households at rents that do not exceed those prescribed by section 50053 of 33 the Health and Safety Code, or, to the extent that the terms of a regulatory agreement 34 or recorded deed restriction, as defined in Regulation 142, conflict with section 35 50053, rents that do not exceed those prescribed by such terms; 36 37 38 (3) Funds that would have been necessary to pay property taxes are used to maintain the affordability of, or reduce rents otherwise necessary for, the units to be occupied by 39 lower income households; 40 41 (4) The managing general partner meets the requirements of Regulation 140; and 42 43 (5) All of the information provided as part of the application for the Supplemental 44 Clearance Certificate, including any accompanying statements or documents, is true, 45 correct, and complete to the best of the knowledge and belief of the person(s) signing 46 the application. 47 48

(d) The following information and documents shall be provided with the application for a 1 Supplemental Clearance Certificate: 2 3 (1) Legal name of the limited partnership; 4 5 (2) Legal name of the managing general partner of the limited partnership, its 6 corporate identification number and mailing address, and the date that it became 7 8 the managing general partner of the limited partnership; 9 (3) Name, title, telephone number, and e-mail address of person signing the 10 application for the Supplemental Clearance Certificate; 11 12 (4) The Organizational Clearance Certificate number and the date of issuance to the 13 managing general partner. If an Organizational Clearance Certificate has not been 14 issued to the managing general partner, an application for an Organizational 15 Clearance Certificate must be filed by the managing general partner; 16 17 (5) Complete address of the property for which the limited partnership is seeking the 18 welfare exemption, including the zip code, and the date the limited partnership 19 20 acquired the property; 21 22 (6) Fiscal year for which the application is made; 23 **(7)** List of any additions or deletions of general partners in the limited partnership, if 24 any, after its formation; 25 26 (8) Copy of Secretary of State form LP-1, Certificate of Limited Partnership, and, if 27 applicable, Secretary of State form LP-2, Amendment to Certificate of Limited 28 Partnership; 29 30 (9) Copy of the regulatory agreement with a public agency, or a copy of a recorded 31 deed restriction which verifies the receipt of federal low-income housing tax 32 credits or government financing, as defined in Regulation 142; and 33 34 (10)Copy of the grant deed. 35 36 The limited partnership shall include a copy of the Supplemental Clearance Certificate 37 (e) with its welfare exemption claim filed with the assessor of the county in which the 38 39 property is located. 40 In the event that the general partner designated in the limited partnership agreement no (f) 41 longer meets the definition of managing general partner, as defined in Regulation 140, or 42 the managing general partner withdraws from the partnership, the limited partnership 43 shall report such event to the State Board of Equalization and the assessor of the county

the welfare exemption claim.

in which in property is located no later than the next succeeding annual filing deadline for

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THE LANGUAGE SET FORTH IN THIS DRAFT OF PROPOSED RULE 142 DOES NOT REFLECT OR REPRESENT THE POSITION OF THE BOARD OR ANY BOARD MEMBER.

DRAFT OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX RULE 142 WELFARE EXEMPTION REQUIREMENTS FOR LOW-INCOME HOUSING PROPERTIES

- (a) **DEFINITIONS**. The definitions set forth in this regulation shall govern the construction of Revenue and Taxation Code section 214, subdivision (g):
 - (1) "Federal low-income housing tax credits" means that the property owner is eligible for and receives state low-income housing tax credits or federal low-income housing tax credits pursuant to section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code.
 - (2) "Government financing" means financing or financial assistance from local, state or federal government used for the acquisition, rehabilitation, development, or operation of the low-income housing property in the form of: (1) tax-exempt mortgage revenue bonds; (2) general obligation bonds; (3) local, state or federal loans; (4) local, state or federal grants; (5) any loan insured or guaranteed by the federal government; and (6) project-based federal funding under section 8 of the Housing Act of 1937. The term "government financing" does not include properties that solely receive federal rental assistance through tenant rent-subsidy vouchers under section 8 of the Housing Act of 1937.
 - (3) "Other legal document" means a document that is adopted as a resolution or statement of policy by an organization's board of directors, or executed by an organization's chief executive officer, provided that the board of directors has delegated this authority in writing to the chief executive officer, that restricts the property's use to low-income housing, such that a minimum of 90% of the units of the property are made continuously available to or occupied by lower income households at rent levels defined in subdivision (c) below.
 - (4) "Lower income households" means "lower income households" as defined by section 50079.5 of the Health and Safety Code.
 - (5) "Recorded deed restriction" means a deed recorded in the county in which the property is located, which specifies that all or a portion of the property's usage is restricted to rental to lower income households and identifies the number of units restricted to use as low-income housing.
 - (6) "Regulatory agreement" means an enforceable and verifiable agreement with a government agency that has provided federal low-income housing tax credits or government financing for the acquisition, rehabilitation, development or operation of a low-income housing property that restricts all or a portion of the property's usage for rental to lower income households. The agreement shall identify the number of units restricted for use as low-income housing, specify the maximum rent allowed for those units, and be recorded in the county in which the property is located.

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- (b) **QUALIFIED CLAIMANTS.** Claimants may qualify for the welfare exemption for low-income housing properties provided that the requirements set forth in either (1) or (2) below are met:
 - (1) All claimants listed under Revenue and Taxation Code section 214, subdivision (g)(1) as a qualifying organization, including limited partnerships in which the managing general partner is an eligible nonprofit corporation, may qualify for the exemption for a particular property provided that:
 - (i) the claimant receives federal low-income housing tax credits or government financing for the particular property; and
 - (ii) the property is subject to a recorded deed restriction or a regulatory agreement which is recorded in the county in which the property is located.
 - (2) All low-income housing properties, subject to restrictions imposed by an other legal document, defined in subdivision (a)(3) above, owned by claimants listed under Revenue and Taxation Code section 214, subdivision (g)(1) as a qualifying organization, other than limited partnerships in which the managing general partner is an eligible nonprofit corporation, qualify for the welfare exemption but the amount of the exemption shall not exceed \$20,000 in tax for a single claimant with respect to a single or multiple properties as provided in Revenue and Taxation Code section 214, subdivision (g)(1)(C).
- (c) **FEDERAL LOW-INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDITS AND GOVERNMENT FINANCING.** For purposes of subdivision (b)(1)(i) above, a property has federal low-income housing tax credits or government financing, as defined in subdivisions (a)(1) and (a)(2), respectively, for the period of time that a regulatory agreement or recorded deed restriction restricts the use of all or any portion of the property for rental to lower income households even if the government financing has been refinanced or has been paid in full, or the term of the federal low-income housing tax credits has expired, provided that the government agency that is a party to the regulatory agreement continues to monitor and enforce compliance with the terms of the regulatory agreement.

(d) PERCENTAGE OF UNITS AND RENT.

- (1) For claims qualifying under subdivision (b)(1) above, an exemption shall be granted equal to that percentage of the value of the property, which is made continuously available for rental to or occupied by lower income households at rents that do not exceed those prescribed by section 50053 of the Health and Safety Code, or, to the extent that the terms of the regulatory agreement or recorded deed restriction conflict with section 50053, rents do not exceed those prescribed by such terms.
- (2) The percentage of the value of the property qualifying for the exemption is based on the actual use of the property for rental to lower income households for the qualifying rent, and is not limited to the percentage designated for use by lower income households in the regulatory agreement, recorded deed restriction, or other legal document.

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THE LANGUAGE SET FORTH IN THIS DRAFT OF PROPOSED RULE 143 DOES NOT REFLECT OR REPRESENT THE POSITION OF THE BOARD OR ANY BOARD MEMBER.

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DRAFT OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX RULE 143 REQUIREMENTS FOR IRREVOCABLE DEDICATION CLAUSE AND DISSOLUTION CLAUSE FOR WELFARE EXEMPTION

- (a) **DEFINITIONS.** For the purposes of this regulation:
 - "Dissolution clause" means a statement in the organizational documents of a qualifying organization that upon the liquidation, dissolution, or abandonment of the qualifying organization, the exempt property will not inure to the benefit of any private person except another qualifying organization.
 - (2) "Irrevocable dedication clause" means a statement in the organizational documents of a qualifying organization that the property is irrevocably dedicated exclusively to one or more qualifying purposes.
 - (3) "Organizational document" means the articles of incorporation of a corporation, or the bylaws, articles of association, constitution or regulations of a community chest, fund, or foundation, or corporation chartered by an act of Congress.
 - (4) "Qualifying organization" means a community chest, fund, foundation, corporation, or limited liability company meeting the requirements of Regulation 136, organized and operated exclusively for religious, hospital, scientific, or charitable purposes. Charitable purposes include educational purposes as defined in Revenue and Taxation Code section 214, subdivision (i).
 - "Qualifying purpose" means a religious, hospital, scientific or charitable purpose. Charitable purposes include educational purpose as defined in Revenue and Taxation Code section 214, subdivision (j).

(b) IN GENERAL. In order to qualify for the welfare exemption provided in Revenue and Taxation Code section 214, among other requirements specified therein, the property owned by a qualifying organization must be irrevocably dedicated exclusively to a qualifying purpose, and upon the liquidation, dissolution, or abandonment of the qualifying organization, the property will not inure to the benefit of any private person except another qualifying organization. In order to satisfy these requirements, the organizational document of the qualifying organization must contain both an irrevocable dedication clause, which meets the requirements set forth in subdivision (c) below, and a dissolution clause, which meets the requirements set forth in subdivision (d) below.

(c) IRREVOCABLE DEDICATION CLAUSE. Property is deemed to be irrevocably dedicated exclusively to a qualifying purpose provided that a qualifying organization's organizational document contains a statement that irrevocably dedicates its property exclusively to a qualifying purpose.

Taxation Code section 214, subdivision (j), the irrevocable dedication clause shall state that the property is irrevocably dedicated to educational purposes as defined in section 214, subdivision (j), or that the property is irrevocably dedicated to charitable and educational purposes meeting the requirements of Revenue and Taxation Code section 214.

(2) If the irrevocable dedication clause states that the property is dedicated to purposes other

(1) If the organization's charitable purpose is educational purposes as defined in Revenue and

- (2) If the irrevocable dedication clause states that the property is dedicated to purposes other than the qualifying purposes, the property does not qualify for the welfare exemption.
- (3) If the irrevocable dedication clause states that the property is irrevocably dedicated to a "public" or "public benefit" purpose, the property does not qualify for the welfare exemption.
- (4) The following examples illustrate irrevocable dedication clauses as defined in subdivision (a)(3) above:
 - Example No. 1: The property owned by this organization is irrevocably dedicated to charitable, scientific, hospital, or religious purposes.
 - Example No. 2: The property owned by this organization is irrevocably dedicated to charitable and educational purposes meeting the requirements of Revenue and Taxation Code section 214.
 - Example No. 3: The property owned by this organization is irrevocably dedicated to educational purposes as defined in Revenue and Taxation Code section 214, subdivision (j).
 - Example No. 4: The property located in California owned by this organization is irrevocably dedicated to charitable, scientific, hospital, or religious purposes.
- (d) **DISSOLUTION CLAUSE.** In order to qualify for the welfare exemption, the qualifying organization's organizational document must contain a dissolution clause, which specifically states that its property will be distributed to another qualifying organization entity upon its liquidation, dissolution, or abandonment.
 - (1) If the dissolution clause in the organizational document designates a specific organization to receive the distribution, it must state and the designated organization must be a qualifying organization that is organized and operated for a qualifying purpose.
 - (2) The dissolution clause of the qualifying organization may provide that, upon the liquidation, dissolution, or abandonment of the qualifying organization, the property will inure to the benefit of a governmental entity.
 - (3) The following examples illustrate dissolution clauses as defined in subdivision (a)(1) above:
 - Example No. 1: Upon the liquidation, dissolution or abandonment of this organization, its assets, remaining after payment or provision of payment of all debts and liabilities of this organization, shall be distributed to a qualifying organization under Revenue and Taxation

Code section 214, which is organized and operated for a charitable, scientific, hospital, or religious purpose.

Example No. 2: Upon the liquidation, dissolution or abandonment of this organization, the proceeds or assets related to property located in California, remaining after payment or provision of payment of all debts and liabilities of this organization, shall be distributed to a qualifying organization under Revenue and Taxation Code section 214, which is organized and operated for a charitable, scientific, hospital, or religious purpose.

Example No. 3: Upon the liquidation, dissolution or abandonment of this organization, its assets, remaining after payment or provision of payment of all debts and liabilities of this organization, shall be distributed to a qualifying organization under Revenue and Taxation Code section 214, which is organized and operated for exclusively for charitable and educational purposes meeting the requirements of Revenue and Taxation Code section 214.

Example No. 4: Upon the liquidation, dissolution or abandonment of this organization, its assets, remaining after payment or provision of payment of all debts and liabilities of this organization, shall be distributed to a qualifying organization under Revenue and Taxation Code section 214, which is organized and operated for exclusively for educational purposes as defined in Revenue and Taxation Code section 214, subdivision (j).

(e) FAILURE TO MEET REQUIREMENTS.

(1) If, at the time of filing, the applicant's organizational document does not contain an irrevocable dedication clause and/or a dissolution clause which meets the requirements of subdivisions (c) and (d), respectively, the organization does not qualify for the Organizational Clearance Certificate. However, the applicant may be issued an Organizational Clearance Certificate for the fiscal year for which the Organizational Clearance Certificate is requested on its application if the applicant amends its organizational documents and submits a certified copy of the amendment to the State Board of Equalization by the next succeeding lien date.

(2) If, at the time of filing, applicant's organizational documents did not contain an irrevocable dedication clause and/or a dissolution clause which meets the requirements of subdivisions (c) and (d), respectively, and the applicant amends its organizational documents after the next succeeding lien date, an Organizational Clearance Certificate may be issued for the fiscal year following the lien date by which the applicant amends its organizational documents and submits a certified copy of the amendment to the State Board of Equalization.

(3) If the applicant amends its articles of incorporation, the amended articles must be filed with the Secretary of State's office and an endorsed copy must be provided to the State Board of Equalization.

(4) The county assessor may not approve a welfare exemption claim until the State Board of Equalization has issued an Organizational Clearance Certificate.